

# Christ, the Power of God...

1 Cor 1:19-25

## 1 Cor. 1:18

Any insight of mine which is not in accordance with Word of God is foolishness...ineffective.

## 1 Cor. 1:19

Isa 29:14.

Israel (Judah) facing attack from Assyrians under Sennacherib

God told Isaiah not be afraid ...plan of Assyrians fail.

King Hezekiah--cunning plans

Isa. 29:13-14

God delivered Judah, without their cunning plans.

Isa. 37:36

God took wisdom of wise men of Judah--turned into foolishness

2 Chron 20. The Ammonites and Moabites, and others ...

2 Chr. 20:3-4, 15-18

Wilderness of Tekoa: 2 Chr. 20:21-24

## 1 Cor. 1:19

Adam Clarke: ...*all the skeptics and deists, by their schemes of natural religion and morality, have not been able to save one soul! No sinner has ever been converted from the error of his ways by their preaching or writings.*

## 1 Cor. 1:20

**Wise:** Sage; expert; men of learning—philosopher

Isa 19:12 soothsayers, mediums, wizards.

Mac: *They always promised but never produced good counsel.*

**Scribe:** notary public, transcriber of law... secretary.

Isa. 33:18 God saw to it ... nothing to record, count, or weigh.

**Where is the disputer of this world?:** investigator; logician, debater.

Loves to argue about philosophy.

Carefully inquiring into causes and relations of things.

Where are smart people who have all answers?

Wiersbe: *Through your studies into man's wisdom have you come to know God in a personal way? They all must answer, no! The fact that they laugh at the cross and consider it foolishness is evidence that they are perishing.*

Concerning your great expertise and wisdom God has given you a grade: zero!

## 1 Cor. 1:20 ...***hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?***

For this generation and society!

Mac: *Where are all the smart people that have the answers? How much closer to peace is man than he was a century ago—or a millennium ago? How much closer are we to eliminating poverty, hunger, ignorance, crime, and immorality than men were in Paul's day? .... Throughout history human wisdom has never basically changed and has never solved the basic problem of man...Peace, joy, hope, harmony, brotherhood, and every other aspiration of man is out of his reach as long as he follows his own way in trying to achieve them. He who sees the cross as folly is doomed to his own folly.*

### **1 Cor. 1:21**

**For after that:** Since we see that ...

**When world...**failed to know God,  
God pleased to reveal Himself  
and save them from sin  
by something as foolish as preaching.

**..them that believe:** total trust, confidence, in truth of saving gospel.

### **1 Cor. 1:22**

Society: Jews and Greeks.

Jews had OT--promised great signs in connection with Messiah.

Jesus performed many miracles...in full view of Jews.

Still refused to believe in Christ as Messiah.

Jn 9—blind beggar

Lenski: *The Jews were looking for signs "from heaven, like juggling the clouds or making the moon and the stars play hide and seek.*

**And the Greeks seek after wisdom**

New ideas to discuss and debate.

They wanted intellectual proof—something novel to mull over  
Paul--Mars Hill.

Mac: *He was both a supernaturalist and a rationalist in the best senses. But above all he was a believer, a believer in God. The gospel is both supernatural and sensible. But it cannot be discovered through supernatural signs or appropriated through natural wisdom apart from a willing heart. It will save only those who believe.*

### **1 Cor. 1:23**

**Christ crucified:** for their sins.

Preaching that Christ, true Messiah, only redeemer of lost.

**Stumblingblock:** scandal; anything over which one may fall;  
anything that offends.

Jews heard--Messiah crucified to atone for their sins---excited, irritated, greatly offended...scandalized.

***Foolishness***: absurd; unphilosophical nonsense; silly; stupid fairy tales

**1 Cor. 1:24**

God opens eyes of understanding

Illuminates mind and heart.

Opens heart to believe gospel.

New nature

Power of God

When we witness--We tell them and God puts pressure on hearts.

**1 Cor. 1:25**

You philosophers and intellectuals--If pile up all your knowledge into one brain storm and compare it with the least amount of God's wisdom--still come short.

## So What?

God's ways are always right

Sees beneath surface

Wise to trust God's wisdom rather than own